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How Accessible is Online Information Literacy Instruction?

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HOW ACCESSIBLE IS ONLINE INFORMATION LITERACY INSTRUCTION?

VINCENT “CHIP” LARKIN

INSTRUCTION & ASSESSMENT LIBRARIAN, NC WESLEYAN COLLEGE



OVERVIEW - WHAT WE'LL COVER TODAY

- Principles of Universal Design for Learning (UDL)
 - Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI)
- UDL/WAI in a virtual learning environment
 - Accessibility of library webpages, LibGuides, etc.
 - Accessibility of Zoom, Microsoft Teams, YouTube, etc.
- Tips for making IL more accessible
- Wrap up/questions

PRINCIPLES OF UNIVERSAL DESIGN FOR LEARNING (UDL)

- Origins – Universal Design / ADA
 - Focus on physical/built environment

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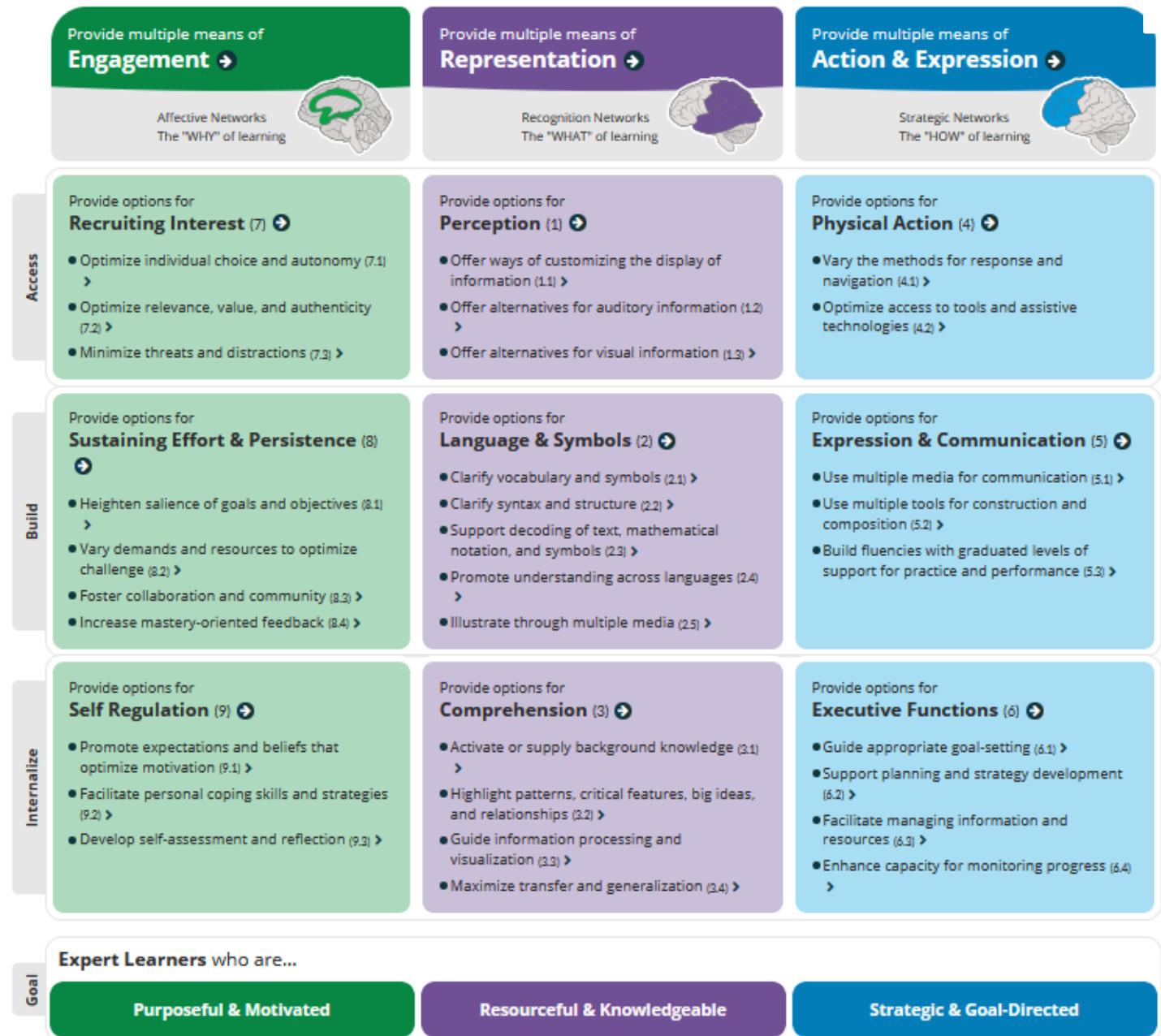


PRINCIPLES OF UNIVERSAL DESIGN FOR LEARNING (UDL)

- UDL broadens UD's focus on the physical environment to include all aspects of how we learn
- CAST (formerly Center for Applied Special Technology)
 - UDL Framework
<https://www.cast.org/impact/universal-design-for-learning>
 - UDL Guidelines
<https://udlguidelines.cast.org/>

- UDL Guidelines
<https://udlguidelines.cast.org/>
- Multiple means of:
 - Engagement
 - Representation
 - Action & Expression

Universal Design for Learning Guidelines



WEB ACCESSIBILITY INITIATIVE (WAI)

- Tools and resources to make websites and applications more accessible
- Developed by the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C)
 - Responsible for international standards for the web
 - Created WAI
 - Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG)
<https://www.w3.org/WAI/standards-guidelines/wcag/>

The logo for the Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI) is displayed within a blue rectangular box. It features the text "Web Accessibility" in white, with a thin yellow horizontal line underneath it. Below the line, the words "Initiative" and "WAI" are written in white, separated by a small gap.

Web Accessibility
Initiative WAI

WEB ACCESSIBILITY INITIATIVE (WAI)

- Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG)
<https://www.w3.org/WAI/standards-guidelines/wcag/>
 - Text size
 - Contrast/color choice
 - Alternate text for visuals
 - Multiple formats for same material: text, audio, video
 - Compatibility with screenreaders/accessibility tools
- Tools to evaluate the accessibility of your website/apps
<https://www.w3.org/WAI/ER/tools/>

- Universal Design for Learning UDL
 - Conceptual Framework
- Web Accessibility Initiative WAI
 - Tools to make websites/apps more accessible

Universal Design for Learning



WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT FOR INFORMATION LITERACY INSTRUCTION?

“UDL provides a set of curricular qualities and principles that enables librarians to avoid the frustration of leaving students out of the accommodations system, and it provides a framework for imagining multiple roads to the same destination within the learning environment.” (Whitver, 2020, p. 396)

- UDL/WAI can potentially bypass the need for retrofitting
- Operating IL with UDL can potentially help all students



UDL/WAI IN A VIRTUAL LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

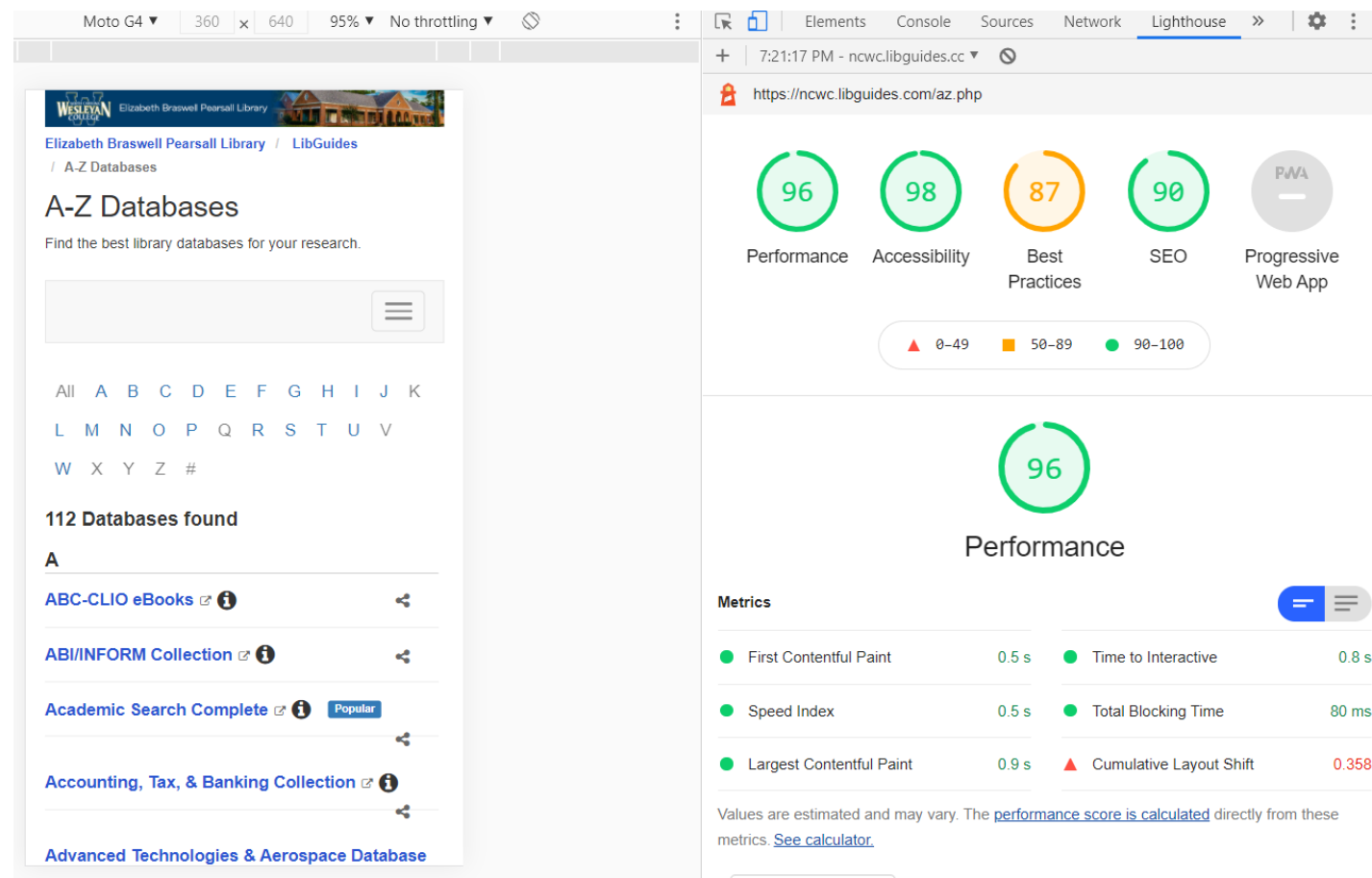


HOW ACCESSIBLE ARE LIBRARY WEBPAGES & LIBGUIDES?

- Use WAI tools to check:
 - Your website
 - Libguides
- Run Accessibility checks on posted documents:
 - Microsoft Word, Adobe PDF's, Google docs

HOW ACCESSIBLE ARE LIBRARY WEBPAGES & LIBGUIDES?

- Your browser can help
- Built in Accessibility Checker Tool
- Google Chrome
 - Three dots – more tools
 - developer tools –
 - lighthouse
- Firefox, Edge
 - In developer tools, fewer bells and whistles



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The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <https://ncwc.libguides.com/az.php>. The page content displays the 'A-Z Databases' section of the Elizabeth Braswell Pearsall Library LibGuides, listing 112 databases found, including ABC-CLIO eBooks, ABI/INFORM Collection, Academic Search Complete, Accounting, Tax, & Banking Collection, and Advanced Technologies & Aerospace Database.

The Lighthouse accessibility audit results are shown on the right side of the browser window. The overall score is 98, with a breakdown of scores for different categories: 96 for Performance, 98 for Accessibility, 87 for Best Practices, and 90 for SEO. The 'Accessibility' section is expanded, showing a score of 98 and a description: 'These checks highlight opportunities to [improve the accessibility of your web app](#). Only a subset of accessibility issues can be automatically detected so manual testing is also encouraged.'

The 'Names and labels' section is expanded, showing a score of 100 and a description: 'These are opportunities to improve the semantics of the controls in your application. This may enhance the experience for users of assistive technology, like a screen reader.'

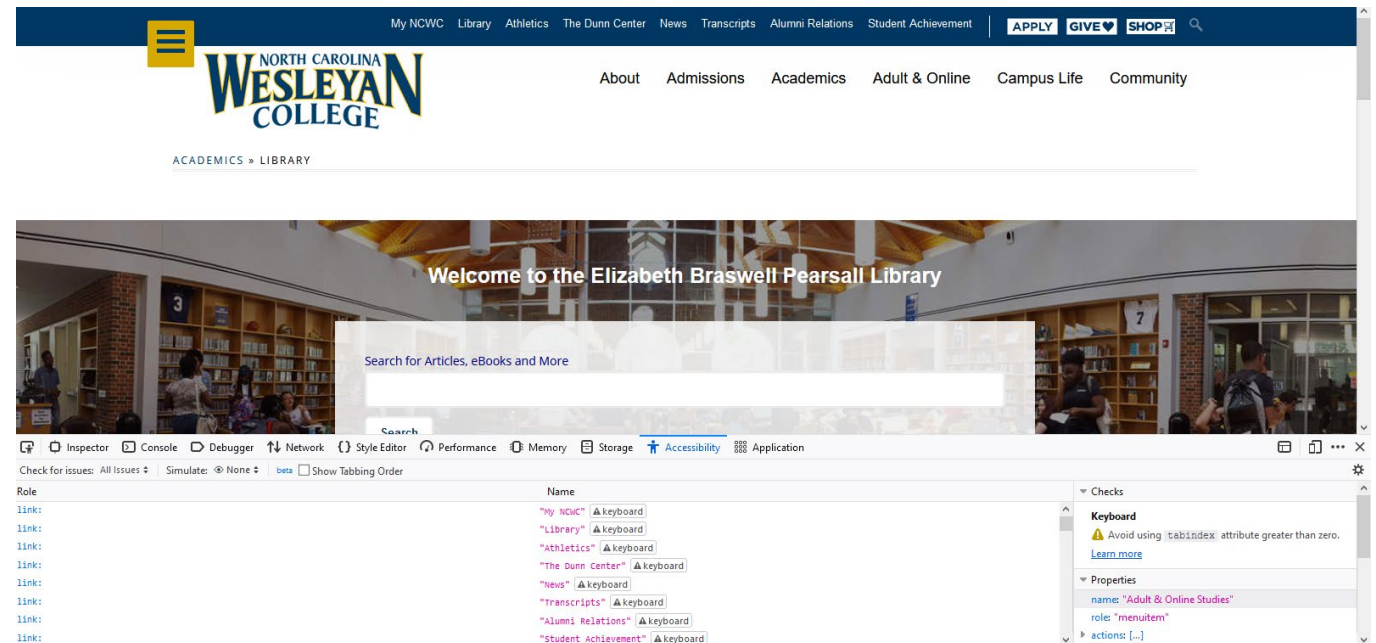
The 'Additional items to manually check (10)' section is expanded, showing a score of 100 and a description: 'These items address areas which an automated testing tool cannot cover. Learn more in our guide on [conducting an accessibility review](#).'

The 'Passed audits (23)' section is expanded, showing a score of 100 and a description: 'These audits passed, indicating no issues were found.'

The 'Not applicable (20)' section is expanded, showing a score of 100 and a description: 'These audits were not applicable to this page.'

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HOW ACCESSIBLE ARE LIBRARY WEBPAGES & LIBGUIDES?

- Use WAI tools to check:
 - Your website
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- Run Accessibility checks on posted documents:
 - Microsoft Word, Adobe PDF's, Google docs
- Use Universal Design for Learning (UDL) framework to evaluate your website, LibGuides
- It's a lot so proceed slowly

HOW ACCESSIBLE ARE VIRTUAL MEETING APPS?

- Zoom, Microsoft Teams, Google Meet, WebEx
- We have less control over design and content
- What can we do?
 - Captioning – if your software supports it

HOW ACCESSIBLE ARE VIRTUAL MEETING APPS?

- Closed captioning/transcripts
- Variety of ease and utility
 - Zoom – CC more options, more complicated to operate.
 - CC option began in Sept. 2020 (Torres, 2020)
 - Microsoft Teams
 - Google Meet

Security

Schedule Meeting

In Meeting (Basic)

[In Meeting \(Advanced\)](#)

Email Notification

Other

Remote support

Allow meeting host to provide 1:1 remote support to another participant



Closed captioning

Allow host to type closed captions or assign a participant/third party device to add closed captions



☒ Enable live transcription service to show transcript on the side panel in-meeting

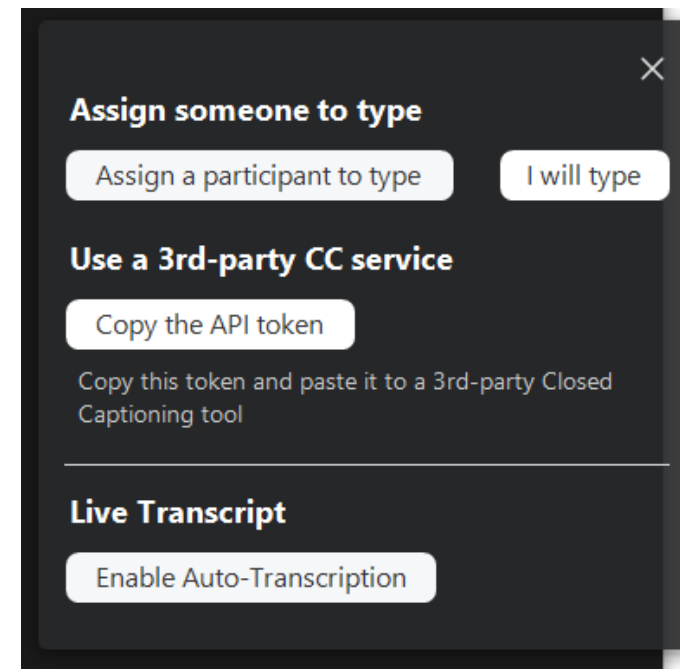
Save Captions

Allow participants to save fully closed captions or transcripts



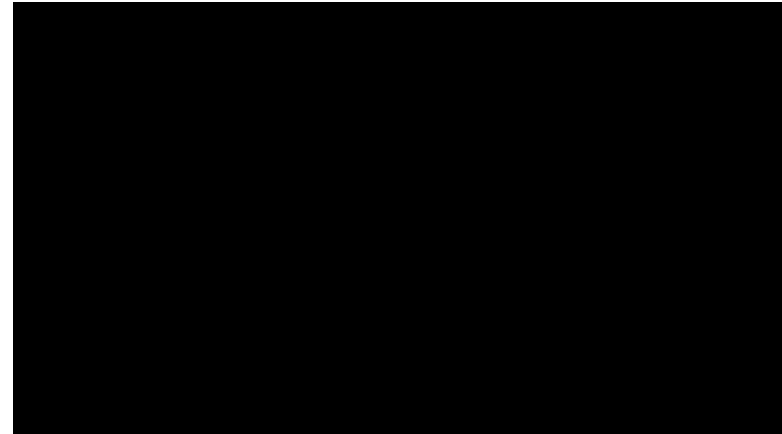
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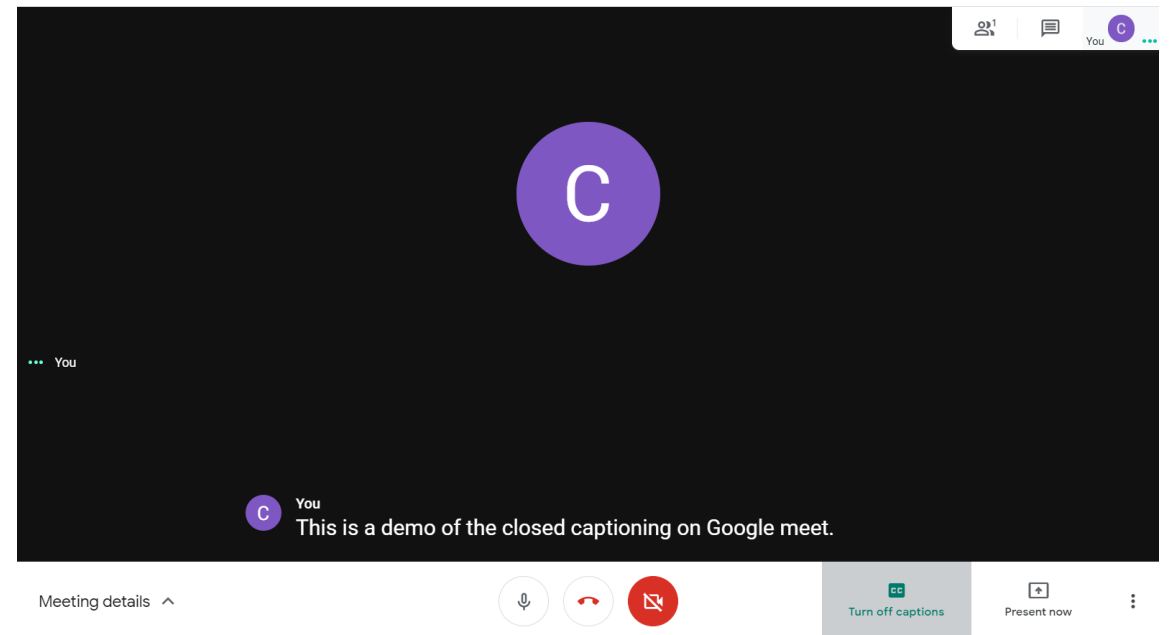
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- You Tube has auto captioning, editable text files

TIPS FOR MAKING ONLINE IL MORE ACCESSIBLE

Apply the UDL Framework and WAI

- Captioning virtual sessions
- Recordings, printed transcripts
- Increase cursor/pointer size
- Have a second person – type captions, monitor the zoom
- WAI checks on LibGuides & documents

TIPS FOR MAKING ONLINE IL MORE ACCESSIBLE

Apply the UDL Framework and WAI

- Handouts/resources in multiple formats
- Utilize the tools available within your virtual meeting app
- Use Online Polling Apps, Padlet, etc. to allow multiple avenues of communication
 - The anonymity of online polling apps don't single individuals out as in a traditional classroom setting, and so may be more comfortable for students (Peter & Clement, 2020).
- Self Paced Online Tutorials – Adaptable to individual learning styles

WRAP UP/QUESTIONS?

- Flexibility is key
- Multiple methods
- Make improvements step by step
- UDL is ongoing/evolving
- What will be the next cut curb?

WRAP UP/QUESTIONS?

- Questions?
- Thank you!

Contact me:

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